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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch)

EUROPE

Greater Rome and Greater Britain. By Sir C. P. Lucas. 184 pp. Index. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1912. 3s. 6d. 9 x 6.

Unique is the word which seems best to characterize this book. In brief, as stated by the author, "this book is intended to illustrate, by comparison with the Roman Empire, some features of the British Empire . . ." It is a story of the effect of science upon the progress of nations, with particular reference, of course, to the two empires mentioned. Geographic phenomena play a most significant rôle.

The author's point of view is stated in part on p. 54 in the following words: "It may be laid down in general that over and above communication, the main empire work of science is to make habitable places more habitable and uninhabitable places habitable." He then proceeds to find the natural causes that lend to the growth and strength of the Roman Empire and to compare these with the events that lend to the building of the British Empire. After comparing the respective periods of continuity, he endeavors to throw light upon the present status of the British Empire and to forecast its future.

The breadth of the point of view is indicated on page 167, where he challenges the statements so frequently made that tend to demonstrate how one cause alone has predominated in the upbuilding or breaking down of an empire: "What holds the empire together and what will hold it, if it is held, is an aggregate of considerations . . . none of which will hold the field exclusively." The book is filled with statements rich in meaning and is further enhanced by the fact that an Englishman who seems well versed in his subject has written it.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Histoire de l'expansion coloniale des peuples européens. Néerlande et Danemark (xvii^e et xviii^e siècles). Par Charles de Lannoy et Herman Vander Linden. vi and 487 pp. Maps. Henri Lamertin. Brussels, 1911. 9½ x 6.

Several years ago these distinguished demographers wrote on the colonial expansion of Spain and Portugal. In this second contribution to an important series, Prof. De Lannoy monographs the colonial system of the Netherlands and Prof. Vander Linden deals with the expansion of Denmark overseas. It is appropriate that these two countries are thus brought into association, for their colonial systems are strongly interrelated at home and abroad.

In this volume the authors are critical historians of a great epoch. They have sought out, with unflagging zeal, the motive which led men from familiar scenes to the conquest and the remaking of new lands. It is a brilliant theme of study and it is excellently handled.

The colonial history of Holland is familiar, its course is accessible in many volumes of state papers. But the Danish colonies are in far other case. How different is made manifest in the bibliography: that of the Netherlands, cited in this volume, fills fifteen pages; Denmark needs but two. In fact, Prof. Vander Linden's present monograph is not only the first authoritative history of the subject but is in effect the initial presentation in any form. Those who

have seen the Danish West Indies will feel no surprise that Denmark's colonial system should have lacked history. History must be the record of events. Where nothing has ever happened, where nothing ever can happen, there can never be history.

The English Peasantry and the Enclosure of Common Fields.

By Gilbert Slater. Series: Studies in Economics and Political Science. vii and 337 pp. Ills., index. London School of Economics. A. Constable & Co., London, 1907. 10s. 6d. 9 x 6.

A minute and detailed study of the British peasant land tenure in common and the effect of doing away with it. The standpoint is that of the modern historical investigator who seeks to find truth at all costs. The origin of the common field system and of the British village community is not investigated. However, the hypothesis is adopted that the local type of village community in the tenth century was a result of the blending of the racial traditions of the successive elements of the population, Celt, Saxon, Angle, Dane and Norman. It is shown that, even in recent times, the enclosure of common fields has made of the peasant, endowed with medieval rights and privileges, a laborer wholly dependent on weekly wages. A brief chapter on the common fields of New England, as found in the towns of Plymouth, Sandwich and Salem, Mass., throws considerable light on the type of village previously existent in the eastern counties of England. The result of enclosing common fields is shown to be increased production of commodities and national resources, increase of pauperism and intemperance, increase of the quantity of human life at the expense of degrading its quality.

DAVID H. BUEL.

English Historical Literature in the Fifteenth Century.

With an appendix of chronicles and historical pieces hitherto for the most part unprinted. By Charles L. Kingsford. xvi and 429 pp. Index. Oxford Univ. Press, Amer. Branch, New York, 1913. 15s. 9 x 6.

A scholarly and critical examination of the sources of the history of England in the fifteenth century. It shows how the monastic Latin annals were developed into English historical writing of the modern type. The whole cycle of writings reviewed centers on Henry V and his campaigns and Wars of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York. To the casual reader, the more interesting portions of the work are the critique of the "History of King Richard III," attributed to Thomas More, the English chronicle, and the Paston letters. It is maintained that the "History of Richard III" is the first English history which is not a mere collection of facts, but a deliberately designed and carefully finished whole, from which our art of history must date its beginning, and which was the most notable expression of the spirit of the age. The use which the later chroniclers—Hall, Stow, and Holinshed—made of these sources is carefully traced and the subject-matter which they furnished for the Shakespearean historical plays.

DAVID H. BUEL.

A History of the Commercial and Financial Relations between England and Ireland from the Period of the Restoration.

By Alice E. Murray. Series: Studies in Economics and Political Science. 486 pp. Index. School of Economics, London, 1903. 10s. 6d. 9 x 6.

This volume is the result of the author's investigations while she was a research student in the London School of Economics. It is a critical study of the economic policy of the British government since the period of the Restoration, in so far as this policy has affected Ireland. The work is based upon the available books and documents, as well as upon manuscript sources, and it is characterized by such painstaking effort and scholarly merit that it has been endorsed by some of the leading authorities within the field which it occupies.

A new phase of English commercial policy was initiated about the time of the Restoration. Until then, legislation respecting trade affected England and Ireland alike. But the Navigation Act of 1663 was the beginning of a restrictive policy toward the industries and trade of Ireland, and this policy remained in force for over a century. The writer attempts to show in how far the commercial legislation of England affected the economic development of Ireland—